

FALL 1999



## WELCOME TO EARTHTRACKS

*EarthTracks*, Idaho's environmental education newsletter. Here you'll find news and opportunities from the "Projects" (WILD, Learning Tree and WET), Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and others active in environmental education. As the century winds down, we're looking ahead and trying to find ways to be most useful to YOU, our reader, and to make the most efficient use of natural resources. We're also mindful of the realities of diminishing budgets. Thus, we would appreciate your thoughts about an on-line (accessible via Internet) *EarthTracks*.

Please help us out by responding to the following quick questions. To register your answers, call 800-ID-WOODS or send email to [plt@micron.net](mailto:plt@micron.net). Just tell us "1-b and 2-a" (for example) and we'll understand what you mean! Right now we're just asking. If we decide to change the way *EarthTracks* comes to you, we'll be sure to let you know.

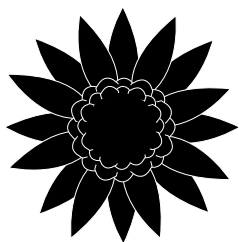
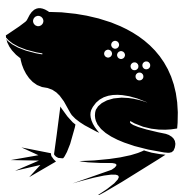
- 1** How do you prefer to receive EarthTracks?  
\_\_\_\_a) printed only      \_\_\_\_b) on-line only  
\_\_\_\_c) my choice of on-line or printed

If you answered b or c, please continue.

- 2** For an on-line newsletter, would you prefer:  
\_\_\_\_a) getting the newsletter as an email attachment  
\_\_\_\_b) getting an email message with a hyper-link to the newsletter  
\_\_\_\_c) knowing where to access the newsletter but not receiving any prompts about new issues.

If you have any other ideas, please share them!

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**





## WORKSHOP CALENDAR

**WET, OCT 8-9**

Boise

**PLT, OCT 15-16**

Boise, Lewiston

**WET, OCT 15-16**

Fort Hall

**PLT & WILD, OCT 22-23**

Twin Falls

**WET, OCT 22-23**

Caldwell

**WILD, OCT 29-30**

Boise

**WET, OCT 29-30**

Heyburn

**PLT, NOV 5-6**

Rexburg

**WET, NOV 5-6**

Boise

**PLT, Nov 12-13**

Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow

**WET, Nov 12-13**

Kamiah (tent)

**WILD, Nov 19-20**

Rexburg

**WET, Nov 19-20**

Post Falls

**PLT, Dec 3-4**

Emmett, Salmon

Additional workshops may have been scheduled since newsletter publication.

For more information, contact:

**WILD** at 1-800-422-WILD,

jgahl@idfg.state.id.us

**PLT** at 1-800-ID-WOODS,

plt@micron.net

**WET** at 208-422-0737,

jscanlin@uidaho.edu

## NEW FIRE WORKSHOP FOR SUMMER 2000!

Plan now to attend "Burning Issues: Fire Ecology" to be held June 26-30, 2000. In this hot new workshop, you'll learn about fire's many faces. We will explore the role of fire in Idaho's forest and range ecosystems—past, present and future. From our base on beautiful Payette Lake, we'll embark on exciting field adventures. You will leave the workshop all fired up and ready to use materials that spark student interest in science, mathematics, social studies, geography, language arts and other subject areas.

The workshop will be held at the University of Idaho McCall field campus. Along with the great presentations and field trips, you'll receive a multitude of education materials, including your very own copy of "Burning Issues," an exciting new interactive multimedia CD-ROM.

Early Bird Special for registrations made prior to March 15, 2000: \$175. After March 15, 2000: Total workshop fee: \$200. Two optional semester hour credits are available for a total of \$90. Contact the Project Learning Tree office for more information



## WATER CAMP HEADS NORTH

After three successful summers in Twin Falls, **Idaho Water Camp** will be in North Idaho, too! This 2-credit workshop is offered by the Idaho Water Education Foundation and University of Idaho. Attendees receive Project WET training and visit numerous field sites, gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of water and its wise management. This year, 31 teacher "campers" toured a hydro plant facility, fish farms, alligator farms, irrigation sites, constructed wetlands, a dairy and more!

Next summer, a similar camp will be held in the Lewiston area featuring the Clearwater and Lower Snake River systems. Training in Project WET will be an integral part of the camp. Local water managers and resource specialists will lead tours focusing on water uses, management and issues in north central Idaho. Tentative dates for the north Idaho workshop are June 27-30.

# ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST TURNS OVER A NEW LEAF

## NEW THEME!...NEW DUE DATE!...MORE PRIZES!

*Wait a minute... Isn't Arbor Day in the Spring? Yes it is, but 5th grade classes get a head start on the poster contest this year!*

### Who is eligible?

Idaho 5th graders

### Theme:

Trees are Terrific...Up Close and Personal

### Deadline:

Postmark entries by Nov. 15, 1999.

### Prizes:

**First Place:** \$200 savings bond and entry in the National Arbor Day Poster Contest.

**Second Place:** \$100 savings bond.

**Third Place:** \$50 savings bond.

**Teacher of each winner:** \$100 cash award for the classroom.

**School of each winner:** Tree to plant for Arbor Day.

**EVERY participating teacher:** FREE Northwest Native Conifers poster (usually sells for \$12).

To receive your free contest packet (guidelines and educational activities), contact:

Milt Williams • Idaho Department of Lands

P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0050

208-334-0241 • mwilliams@idl.state.id.us

You may also call IFPC at 800-ID-WOODS.

# ARBOR DAY

Idaho's Arbor Day is April 28, 2000

## IDAHO TEACHERS RECEIVE GRANTS

The Idaho Forest Products Commission awarded fifteen Idaho educators with grants to support forest-related projects this school year. Congratulations to the following:

**Susie Borowicz**, *Elk City School*,  
**Deborah Jean Cutler**, *Murtaugh Elementary*, **J.R. Doherty**, *Parma High School*, **Lori Frank**, *Coeur d'Alene High School*, **Ann Gehring**, *Priest River Lamanna High School*, **Rene Hasbargen**, *Lincoln Elementary*, *Twin Falls*, **Vernie Kushlan**, *Centerpoint Alternative High School*, *Caldwell*, **Janet Langley**, *Spirit Lake Elementary*, **John Pedersen**, *South Middle School*, *Nampa*, **Vickie Pfeifer**, *Southside Elementary*, *Cocalalla*, **Cindy Simmons**, *Challis Elementary*, **Jane Thornes**, *Heyburn Elementary*, *St. Maries*, **Annette Weeks**, *Blackfoot High School*, **Carl White**, *Orchards Elementary*, *Lewiston*, **Janine Williams**, *Timberlake High*, *Rathdrum*.

Grants applications are accepted year-round. Call PLT to request an application form. Apply now and you may have a nice surprise next school year!

## WET FACILITATORS NEEDED

Project WET is looking for creative, enthusiastic teachers to facilitate water education workshops in their local areas. If you are interested in environmental education and enjoy working with other teachers, this is a great opportunity to do both. Facilitators are asked to attend facilitator training and conduct two workshops per year. Teacher facilitators are compensated for time and expenses. Workshops are generally held on Friday nights and all day Saturday with credit available through Idaho universities. If you are interested in finding out more about WET and how to join Idaho's WET Facilitation Team, contact Julie Scanlin in the Project WET office.

## GREAT EARTH ODYSSEY

Project WET Idaho and the Geothermal Energy Office have joined forces to develop a new curriculum on worldwide geothermal resources. Idaho is rich in geothermal resources, yet the public knows relatively little about it. The curriculum is interdisciplinary and provides teachers (K-12) with ready-made classroom activities.

This summer, six of the *GEO: Great Earth Odyssey* activities were presented at a Yellowstone Institute teacher workshop. The activities were very successful and we are anxious to see these and other activities field tested throughout Idaho. If you are interested in classroom testing for the new project, or are interested in other materials related to geothermal resources contact Julie Scanlin at the Project WET office.

## PROJECT WET SIGN-UP FEES

Beginning this fall, there will be a change in the registration cost for Project WET. In the past we have asked for a \$5 refundable fee. However, this year teachers will be asked to register with a \$15 nonrefundable fee. These funds will pay for workshop materials and help us meet the increasing teacher demand for loan of instructional equipment such as groundwater flow models, water history trunks, envirosapes, and water chemistry testing supplies.



**PROJECT WET**



## IDAHO RANGELAND RESOURCE COMMISSION

### RANGE CAMP: SUMMER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

This past summer the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission hosted high school students from around the state in McCall for four days of hands-on learning about rangelands. Brandi Stanford, Jordan Valley, was voted "Top Hand" by the other campers and will be representing Idaho at the Society for Range Management's Youth Forum in February. The goal of the camp is to provide Idaho high school students interested in natural resources with the opportunity to learn more about rangelands. Next year the camp is scheduled for July 5-8. Contact the IRRRC office for more information.

### TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT RANGELANDS, TOO!

In June, forty Idaho high school teachers attended a Rangeland Ecology and Management class in Twin Falls. The two-credit course covered many topics including range plant identification, range condition and monitoring, riparian health, and grazing management. These teachers will develop a workbook of activities and lessons based on the workshop material. The workbook will be distributed to all interested teachers. Contact the IRRRC for information on the workbook and next year's session.

*Free!*

### BEAUTIFUL NEW POSTER.

A new poster is now available.

**"Idaho Rangelands: Wild Open Spaces"**

is a colorful poster that beautifully depicts Idaho's rangelands on one side and provides information about range plants on the other. A must-have for your classroom wall. Contact IRRRC at 877-ID-RANGE or [irrc@micron.net](mailto:irrc@micron.net) to request your free copy today!



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# PROJECT WILD

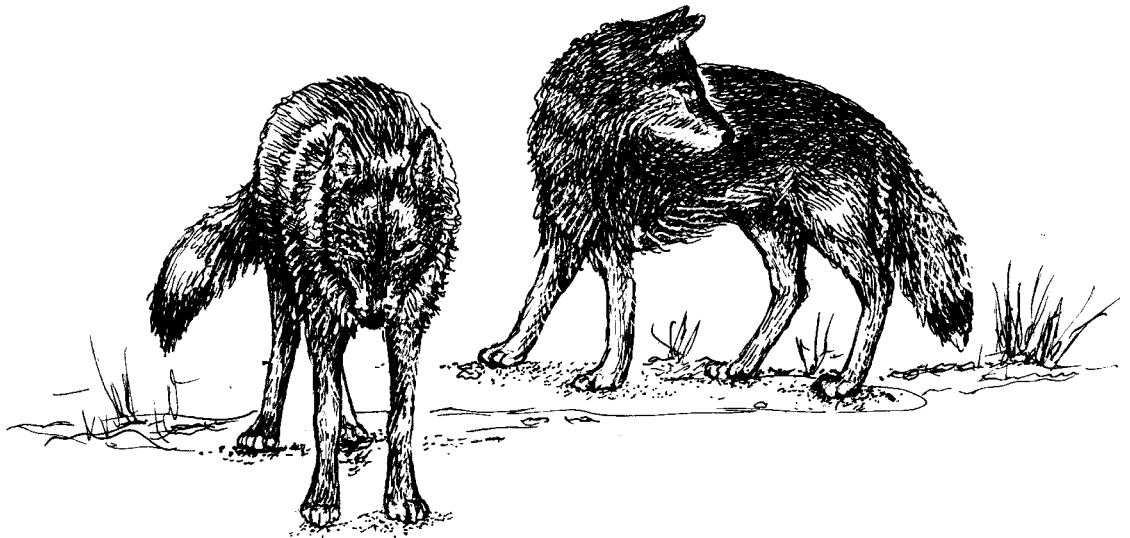
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## WILD II '99 — A HOWLING GOOD TIME!

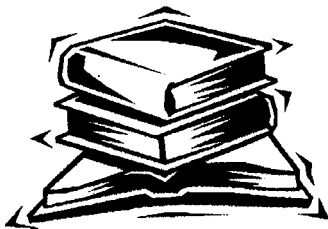
WILD II classes this year had a first. For the first time on our wolf survey we actually heard AND saw wolves.

Educators from all over Idaho attended this year's classes in McCall during July and called it "the BEST class offered in Idaho." We are taking sign-ups already for classes that will be held July 9-15, 2000, or July 16-22, 2000. Call us at 1-800-422-WILD for more information. You must have completed a Project WILD class to take this class.



## WILD III

A new class will be offered in Northern Idaho the summer of 2000. This class will be offered to educators who have taken Project WILD and WILD II. We will be studying species that are native to the Panhandle Region: goats, caribou, grizzly bear, kokanee and others. We are patterning this class after the class in McCall. More details will be available soon.



## QUICK CLASSROOM IDEA

### HOW MUCH WOOD DO I REALLY USE?

Have students examine a one-foot (~30 cm) wooden ruler. Ask them how long it takes for each of us on the planet to use the amount of wood in that ruler. If they were to measure the total amount of wood consumed on the planet (for heating, cooking, shelter, paper, packaging, ingredients in numerous products, etc.), and divide it by the Earth's 6 billion inhabitants, they would find that the ruler represents the wood each person in the world uses every 25 minutes. Now, if we consider that Americans are much bigger consumers of resources than many other countries, we'd find that each American, on average, uses this much wood in only seven minutes!

And that's just the wood we use. What other resources do we rely on heavily? How are all these resources managed? A PLT activity that is wonderful for continuing discussion from this demo is #14, Renewable or Not. Students will consider the resources we use, their renewability (or not), and how to take care of renewable resources so their ability to renew themselves is not compromised.



### RANGELAND PROJECT GRANTS FOR TEACHERS!

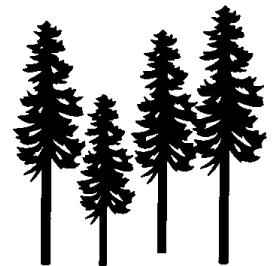
The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission is offering four competitive grants, of up to \$500, to teachers for student oriented projects focusing on rangelands. Projects need to be implemented during the spring 2000 term, but may carry through the next year. Grant applications are due December 3, 1999.

If you are currently an Idaho teacher, and are interested in more information regarding these grants contact: Gretchen Hyde • Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission • P.O. Box 126 • Emmett, Idaho • 83617 • (208) 398-7002 • (877) IDRange or Julie Scanlin • 800 Park Blvd. • Plaza 4, Suite 105 • Boise, Idaho • 83712 • (208) 422-0737

### FREE ACTIVITY PACKET AVAILABLE!

Did you remember to thank a forest during Forest Products Week? Every October, America sets aside a week to consider all the benefits our forests provide, and our role in being good stewards of these ecosystems and their inhabitants. The official week may be over, but the opportunity to teach about trees and forests continues through the school year.

For Forest Products Week, Project Learning Tree teamed up with the American Forest and Paper Association to provide education materials. Inside you'll find colorful information sheets such as *Amazing Forest Facts*, *Amazing Facts about Paper Recycling*, *A Treemendous Renewable Resource*, and *Working Forests...A Family Affair*. There is also a Forest and Paper Facts quiz and a Crossword Puzzle. PLT has included a couple sample activities and a poster. Contact the PLT office for your free packet.





For further information on *EarthTracks*, contact:

**Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game**

**Project WILD**

P.O. Box 25 · Boise, ID 83707  
Call Toll-Free in Idaho: 1-800-422-WILD  
John Gahl · (208) 334-2633  
jgahl@idfg.state.id.us

**Project WET**

800 Park Blvd., Plaza 4, Ste 105  
Boise, ID 83712  
Julie Scanlin · (208) 422-0737  
jscanlin@uidaho.edu

**Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Education**

1387 S. Vinnell Way · Boise, ID 83709  
Shelley Davis-Brunner · (208) 373-4020  
s1davis@id.blm.gov

**Idaho Forest Products Commission**

**Project Learning Tree**

P.O. Box 855 · Boise, ID 83701  
Call Toll-Free in Idaho: 1-800-ID-WOODS  
Michelle Youngquist · (208) 334-4061  
plt@micron.net

**Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission**

P.O. Box 126 · Boise, ID 83617  
Call Toll-Free in Idaho: 1-877-ID-RANGE  
Gretchen Hyde · (208) 398-7002  
irrc@micron.net

**EarthTracks** can be accessed through Internet at: <http://www.id.blm.gov/iso/912/enviroed.html>.

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